



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-570-051, C-570-052]

Certain Hardwood Plywood Products from the People's Republic of China: Continuation of the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: As a result of the determinations by the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) in their five-year (sunset) reviews that revocation of the antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) orders on certain hardwood plywood products (hardwood plywood) from the People's Republic of China (China) would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and countervailable subsidies, and material injury to an industry in the United States, Commerce is publishing a notice of continuation of these AD and CVD orders.

DATES: Applicable May 25, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kabir Archuletta, AD/CVD Operations, Office V, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2593.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On January 4, 2018, Commerce published the AD and CVD orders on hardwood plywood from China.¹ On December 1, 2022, the ITC instituted,² and Commerce initiated, the

¹ See *Certain Hardwood Plywood Products from the People's Republic of China: Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, and Antidumping Duty Order*, 83 FR 504 (January 4, 2018); see also *Certain Hardwood Plywood Products from the People's Republic of China: Countervailing Duty Order*, 83 FR 513 (January 4, 2018) (collectively, the *Orders*).

² See *Hardwood Plywood from China; Institution of Five-Year Review*, 87 FR 73792 (December 1, 2022).

first sunset reviews of the *Orders*, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).³ As a result of its reviews, Commerce determined that revocation of the *Orders* would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and countervailable subsidization, and, therefore, notified the ITC of the magnitude of the margins and subsidy rates likely to prevail should the *Orders* be revoked.⁴

On May 25, 2023, the ITC published its determination, pursuant to sections 751(c) and 752(a) of the Act, that revocation of the *Orders* would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.⁵

Scope of the *Orders*

The merchandise covered by the *Orders* is hardwood and decorative plywood, and certain veneered panels as described below. For purposes of this proceeding, hardwood and decorative plywood is defined as a generally flat, multilayered plywood or other veneered panel, consisting of two or more layers or plies of wood veneers and a core, with the face and/or back veneer made of non-coniferous wood (hardwood) or bamboo. The veneers, along with the core may be glued or otherwise bonded together. Hardwood and decorative plywood may include products that meet the American National Standard for Hardwood and Decorative Plywood, ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2016 (including any revisions to that standard).

For purposes of the *Orders*, a “veneer” is a slice of wood regardless of thickness which is cut, sliced or sawed from a log, bolt, or flitch. The face and back veneers are the outermost veneer of wood on either side of the core irrespective of additional surface coatings or covers as described below.

³ See *Initiation of Five-Year (Sunset) Reviews*, 87 FR 73757 (December 1, 2022).

⁴ See *Certain Hardwood Plywood Products from the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of the Expedited Sunset Review of the Antidumping Duty Order*, 88 FR 20121 (April 5, 2023), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum (IDM); see also *Certain Hardwood Plywood Products from the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of the Expedited First Sunset Review of the Countervailing Duty Order*, 88 FR 13782 (March 6, 2023), and accompanying IDM.

⁵ See *Hardwood Plywood from China*, 88 FR 33906 (May 25, 2023).

The core of hardwood and decorative plywood consists of the layer or layers of one or more material(s) that are situated between the face and back veneers. The core may be composed of a range of materials, including but not limited to hardwood, softwood, particleboard, or medium-density fiberboard (MDF).

All hardwood plywood is included within the scope of the *Orders* regardless of whether or not the face and/or back veneers are surface coated or covered and whether or not such surface coating(s) or covers obscures the grain, textures, or markings of the wood. Examples of surface coatings and covers include, but are not limited to: ultra violet light cured polyurethanes; oil or oil-modified or water based polyurethanes; wax; epoxy-ester finishes; moisture-cured urethanes; paints; stains; paper; aluminum; high pressure laminate; MDF; medium density overlay (MDO); and phenolic film. Additionally, the face veneer of hardwood plywood may be sanded; smoothed or given a “distressed” appearance through such methods as hand-scraping or wire brushing. All hardwood plywood is included within the scope even if it is trimmed, cut-to-size, notched, punched, drilled, or has underwent other forms of minor processing.

All hardwood and decorative plywood is included within the scope of the *Orders*, without regard to dimension (overall thickness, thickness of face veneer, thickness of back veneer, thickness of core, thickness of inner veneers, width, or length). However, the most common panel sizes of hardwood and decorative plywood are 1219 x 1829 mm (48 x 72 inches), 1219 x 2438 mm (48 x 96 inches), and 1219 x 3048 mm (48 x 120 inches).

Subject merchandise also includes hardwood and decorative plywood that has been further processed in a third country, including but not limited to trimming, cutting, notching, punching, drilling, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the *Orders* if performed in the country of manufacture of the in-scope product.

The scope of the *Orders* excludes the following items: (1) structural plywood (also known as “industrial plywood” or “industrial panels”) that is manufactured to meet U.S. Products Standard PS 1-09, PS 2-09, or PS 2-10 for Structural Plywood (including any revisions

to that standard or any substantially equivalent international standard intended for structural plywood), and which has both a face and a back veneer of coniferous wood; (2) products which have a face and back veneer of cork; (3) multilayered wood flooring, as described in the AD and CVD orders on Multilayered Wood Flooring from the People's Republic of China. *See Multilayered Wood Flooring from the People's Republic of China*, 76 FR 76690 (December 8, 2011) (amended final determination of sales at less than fair value and AD order), and *Multilayered Wood Flooring from the People's Republic of China*, 76 FR 76693 (December 8, 2011) (countervailing duty order), as amended by *Multilayered Wood Flooring from the People's Republic of China: Amended Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders*, 77 FR 5484 (February 3, 2012); (4) multilayered wood flooring with a face veneer of bamboo or composed entirely of bamboo; (5) plywood which has a shape or design other than a flat panel, with the exception of any minor processing described above; (6) products made entirely from bamboo and adhesives (also known as "solid bamboo"); and (7) Phenolic Film Faced Plyform (PFF), also known as Phenolic Surface Film Plywood (PSF), defined as a panel with an "Exterior" or "Exposure 1" bond classification as is defined by The Engineered Wood Association, having an opaque phenolic film layer with a weight equal to or greater than 90g/m³ permanently bonded on both the face and back veneers and an opaque, moisture resistant coating applied to the edges.

Excluded from the scope of the *Orders* are wooden furniture goods that, at the time of importation, are fully assembled and are ready for their intended uses. Also excluded from the scope of the *Orders* is "ready to assemble" (RTA) furniture. RTA furniture is defined as (A) furniture packaged for sale for ultimate purchase by an end-user that, at the time of importation, includes 1) all wooden components (in finished form) required to assemble a finished unit of furniture, 2) all accessory parts (*e.g.*, screws, washers, dowels, nails, handles, knobs, adhesive glues) required to assemble a finished unit of furniture, and 3) instructions providing guidance on the assembly of a finished unit of furniture; (B) unassembled bathroom vanity cabinets, having a

space for one or more sinks, that are imported with all unassembled hardwood and hardwood plywood components that have been cut-to-final dimensional component shape/size, painted or stained prior to importation, and stacked within a singled shipping package, except for furniture feet which may be packed and shipped separately; or (C) unassembled bathroom vanity linen closets that are imported with all unassembled hardwood and hardwood plywood components that have been cut-to-final dimensional shape/size, painted or stained prior to importation, and stacked within a single shipping package, except for furniture feet which may be packed and shipped separately.

Excluded from the scope of the *Orders* are kitchen cabinets that, at the time of importation, are fully assembled and are ready for their intended uses. Also excluded from the scope of the *Orders* are RTA kitchen cabinets. RTA kitchen cabinets are defined as kitchen cabinets packaged for sale for ultimate purchase by an end-user that, at the time of importation, includes 1) all wooden components (in finished form) required to assemble a finished unit of cabinetry, 2) all accessory parts (*e.g.*, screws, washers, dowels, nails, handles, knobs, hooks, adhesive glues) required to assemble a finished unit of cabinetry, and 3) instructions providing guidance on the assembly of a finished unit of cabinetry.

Excluded from the scope of the *Orders* are finished table tops, which are table tops imported in finished form with pre-cut or drilled openings to attach the underframe or legs. The table tops are ready for use at the time of import and require no further finishing or processing.

Excluded from the scope of this *Orders* are finished countertops that are imported in finished form and require no further finishing or manufacturing.

Excluded from the scope of the *Orders* are laminated veneer lumber door and window components with (1) a maximum width of 44 millimeters, a thickness from 30 millimeters to 72 millimeters, and a length of less than 2413 millimeters (2) water boiling point exterior adhesive, (3) a modulus of elasticity of 1,500,000 pounds per square inch or higher, (4) finger-jointed or lap-jointed core veneer with all layers oriented so that the grain is running parallel or with no

more than 3 dispersed layers of veneer oriented with the grain running perpendicular to the other layers; and (5) top layer machined with a curved edge and one or more profile channels throughout.

Excluded from the scope of the *Orders* are certain door stiles and rails made of laminated veneer lumber that have a width not to exceed 50 millimeters, a thickness not to exceed 50 millimeters, and a length of less than 2,450 millimeters.

Imports of hardwood plywood are primarily entered under the following Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings: 4412.10.0500; 4412.31.0520; 4412.31.0540; 4412.31.0560; 4412.31.0620; 4412.31.0640; 4412.31.0660; 4412.31.2510; 4412.31.2520; 4412.31.2610; 4412.31.2620; 4412.31.4040; 4412.31.4050; 4412.31.4060; 4412.31.4075; 4412.31.4080; 4412.31.4140; 4412.31.4150; 4412.31.4155; 4412.31.4160; 4412.31.4180; 4412.31.4200; 4412.31.4500; 4412.31.4850; 4412.31.4860; 4412.31.4863; 4412.31.4865; 4412.31.4866; 4412.31.4880; 4412.31.4869; 4412.31.5125; 4412.31.5135; 4412.31.5155; 4412.31.5165; 4412.31.5175; 4412.31.5235; 4412.31.5255; 4412.31.5260; 4412.31.5262; 4412.31.5264; 4412.31.5265; 4412.31.5266; 4412.31.5268; 4412.31.5270; 4412.31.5275; 4412.31.6000; 4412.31.6100; 4412.31.9100; 4412.31.9200; 4412.32.0520; 4412.32.0540; 4412.32.0565; 4412.32.0570; 4412.32.0620; 4412.32.0640; 4412.32.0670; 4412.32.2510; 4412.32.2525; 4412.32.2530; 4412.32.2610; 4412.32.2630; 4412.32.3125; 4412.32.3135; 4412.32.3155; 4412.32.3165; 4412.32.3175; 4412.32.3185; 4412.32.3235; 4412.32.3255; 4412.32.3265; 4412.32.3275; 4412.32.3285; 4412.32.5600; 4412.32.5700; 4412.33.0620; 4412.33.0640; 4412.33.0670; 4412.33.2630; 4412.33.3235; 4412.33.3255; 4412.33.3265; 4412.33.3275; 4412.33.3285; 4412.33.5700; 4412.34.2600; 4412.34.3235; 4412.34.3255; 4412.34.3265; 4412.34.3275; 4412.34.3285; 4412.34.5700; 4412.39.1000; 4412.39.3000; 4412.39.4011; 4412.39.4012; 4412.39.4019; 4412.39.4031; 4412.39.4032; 4412.39.4039; 4412.39.4051; 4412.39.4052; 4412.39.4059; 4412.39.4061; 4412.39.4062; 4412.39.4069; 4412.39.5010; 4412.39.5030; 4412.39.5050; 4412.41.0000; 4412.42.0000;

4412.51.1030; 4412.51.1050; 4412.51.3111; 4412.51.3121; 4412.51.3141; 4412.51.3161;
4412.51.3175; 4412.51.4100; 4412.51.5100; 4412.52.1030; 4412.52.1050; 4412.52.3121;
4412.52.3161; 4412.52.3175; 4412.52.4100; 4412.52.5100; 4412.91.0600; 4412.91.1020;
4412.91.1030; 4412.91.1040; 4412.91.3110; 4412.91.3120; 4412.91.3130; 4412.91.3140;
4412.91.3150; 4412.91.3160; 4412.91.3170; 4412.91.4100; 4412.91.5115; 4412.92.0700;
4412.92.1120; 4412.92.1130; 4412.92.1140; 4412.92.3120; 4412.92.3150; 4412.92.3160;
4412.92.3170; 4412.92.4200; 4412.92.5215; 4412.94.1030; 4412.94.1050; 4412.94.3105;
4412.94.3111; 4412.94.3121; 4412.94.3141; 4412.94.3161; 4412.94.3175; 4412.94.4100;
4412.99.0600; 4412.99.1020; 4412.99.1030; 4412.99.1040; 4412.99.3110; 4412.99.3120;
4412.99.3130; 4412.99.3140; 4412.99.3150; 4412.99.3160; 4412.99.3170; 4412.99.4100;
4412.99.5115; 4412.99.5710; and 9403.91.0080.

Imports of hardwood plywood may also enter under HTSUS subheadings: 4412.10.9000;
4412.94.5100; 4412.94.9500; 4412.99.6000; 4412.99.7000; 4412.99.8000; 4412.99.9000;
4412.99.9500; 9403.90.7005; 9403.90.7010; 9403.90.7080; 9403.91.0005; and 9403.91.0010.

While the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the *Orders* is dispositive.

Continuation of the *Orders*

As a result of the determinations by Commerce and the ITC that revocation of the *Orders* would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping, countervailable subsidies, and material injury to an industry in the United States, pursuant to section 751(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce hereby orders the continuation of the *Orders*. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will continue to collect AD and CVD cash deposits at the rates in effect at the time of entry for all imports of subject merchandise.

The effective date of the continuation of the *Orders* will be May 25, 2023. Pursuant to section 751(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(c)(2), Commerce intends to initiate the next five-year reviews of the *Orders* not later than 30 days prior to the fifth anniversary of the

effective date of continuation.

Administrative Protective Order (APO)

This notice also serves as a final reminder to parties subject to an APO of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3), which continues to govern business proprietary information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials, or conversion to judicial protective order, is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation of the APO which is subject to sanction.

Notification to Interested Parties

These five-year sunset reviews and this notice are in accordance with sections 751(c) and 751(d)(2) of the Act and published in accordance with section 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(f)(4).

Dated: May 31, 2023.

Lisa W. Wang,
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

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